

Applicants: Yuan Chang, et al.
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SDF-1 in the absence of the agent;

- (b) determining the amount of CXCR4 receptor activation resulting from step (a); and
- (c) comparing the amount of activation so measured to the amount of CXCR4 receptor activation measured in the absence of the agent, wherein an amount of CXCR4 receptor activation in the presence of the agent lower than that in the absence of the agent indicates that the agent inhibits the activation of a CXCR4 receptor.

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19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the cell is a lymphocyte or a monocyte.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-12, 16, and 17 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have canceled claims 13-15 without prejudice and have added new claims 18 and 19 to introduce certain format changes. New claim 18 corresponds to canceled claims 13 and 15. New claim 19 corresponds to canceled claim 14. Support for new claims 18 and 19 can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, page 2, line 22 to page 3, line 37, page 33, lines 4-28 and page 33, line 32 to page 34, line 30. Applicants maintain that the addition of new claims 18 and 19 does not raise an issue of new matter. Applicants have also introduced certain format changes to the specification to address the informalities raised by the Examiner. A marked-up version of the amended paragraphs is annexed hereto as Exhibit A. Accordingly, new claims 18 and 19 will be pending in the subject application upon entry of this Amendment.